

160,000 REPORTED LOSS OF GERMANS AT VERDUN

FINAL
EDITION

The

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FORMER FRENCH LINER PROVENCE SUNK; 1,800 ON BOARD; NEARLY 1,000 LOST

FRENCH ADMIT NEW LOSSES; GERMANS CLAIM CAPTURE OF FIVE TOWNS, 17,000 MEN

Crown Prince Shifts Line of Attack on Verdun Defenses to East and South-east—Paris Claims Check North of Fortress.

Suddenly shifting their attack, the Germans have launched a heavy drive on Verdun from the eastward, aiming to squeeze the French out of Verdun by a threat of envelopment.

The German War Office this afternoon announced the capture of the villages of Manheulles and Champlon, eleven miles southeast of Verdun, and the advance of the whole German front, northeast, east and southeast of Verdun, and the capture of nearly 17,000 prisoners. The report says the Germans passed the villages of Dieppe, Abancourt and Blanzee. The first two towns are in territory which was already supposed to have been in German hands.

From Dutch sources came reports to-day that 45,000 Germans were killed in the frontal attacks upon Verdun fortress and estimates that the Germans have lost at least 160,000 in killed, wounded and missing since the smash began.

The French War Office, reporting a visible slackening of the Crown Prince's onslaught north of Verdun, admitted the loss of Manheulles and confirmed Berlin reports of heavy fighting in the Woëvre region east of Verdun.

Villages Captured by Germans In Renewed Drive at Verdun

BERLIN (via London), Feb. 29.—Progress for the Germans in their drive toward Verdun in the Woëvre district was announced to-day by the War Office. The German troops have passed Dieppe, Abancourt and Blanzee, and also have taken Manheulles and Champlon.

Dieppe is about six miles directly east of Fort de Douaumont and Blanzee is ten miles to the south and east of Verdun. Manheulles is still further to the south. There was hard fighting yesterday at this point. The French report admits the loss of this village.

The War Office announced that 16,575 French soldiers and 228 officers have been taken in the Woëvre region southeast and east of Verdun. The booty includes 78 cannon and 86 machine guns. The text of to-day's official statement is as follows:

"Very strong artillery activity has continued at several points. East of the Meuse we stormed a small armored work directly northwest of the village of Douaumont. Repeated enemy attacks in this region were stopped at the very outset.

"In the Woëvre our troops have passed Dieppe, Abancourt and Blanzee. They have cleared the extensive wooded region northeast of Watronville and Haudoumont and have taken in their heroic advance Manheulles and also Champlon.

"Up to last night we counted unwounded prisoners 228 officers and 16,575 men and further 78 cannon (7 of these heavy and of the most modern kind) and 86 machine guns, while uncounted war material is reported as booty.

"At the forest's house at Thiverville, northeast of Babouville, the projecting portion of a French position was attacked and taken. A large number of prisoners remained in our hands."

The War Office gives no estimate of the German losses or of the number of French killed.

French Check German Assaults In Hot Battle at Douaumont

PARIS, Feb. 29.—An official announcement by the French War Office this afternoon indicates that the bombardment north of Verdun is continuing with greater intensity. There was hand-to-hand fighting near the village of Douaumont, outside the captured fort.

Admission is made that the German forces captured the village of Manheulles, ten or twelve miles southeast of Verdun fortress, but it is asserted that the French regained part of their lost ground and that the

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SENATE EXTENDS THOMPSON INQUIRY FOR FOUR MONTHS

Head of Investigators Fought
Hard to Get Time Until
Jan. 10.

GILLESPIE HOLDS OFF
Still Refuses to Give Up Books
of Firm for Committee's
Inspection.

ALBANY, Feb. 29.—By a vote of 24 to 15 the Senate to-day adopted a resolution extending the life of the Thompson Public Service Investigation Committee until July 1.

The Democrats voted with Senator Thompson, who desired an extension until Jan. 10, 1917.

Following the introduction of the Thompson resolution extending the life of the committee until next January, Senator Brown, Republican leader, explaining that he differed from Mr. Thompson, offered an amendment that the committee conclude its hearings July 1, 1916, and that it be given until Jan. 16, 1917, to present the committee's final report.

"If we receive the extension I ask for," Senator Thompson said, "we probably will be able to complete our work in a few months. We have had so much experience with witnesses we desire to subpoena, who are outside of New York, that we feel that longer time should be given to complete the committee's record with their testimony."

Senator Thompson said that the people of New York would not stand for the throttling of the committee at this time when it was in a fair way to expose certain public utility interests.

"In view of all the public interests," said Senator Brown, "and without reference to any private interests, I think it is desirable that the examination of witnesses should be completed by July 1."

Senator Lawson said the people of New York City were vitally concerned in the investigation, and he moved a slow rollcall on the resolutions. Senator Brown moved an open call of the Senate. When several members were returned to the Senate chamber a vote was taken on the Brown amendment, and it was adopted.

Senator Thompson introduced a bill providing for the appointment of a commission to be composed of a member to be appointed by the Governor, a Senator and an Assemblyman, to confer with the Governor and Legislature of adjoining States with a view of securing in such States reciprocal legislation for the examination of witnesses whose testimony is required by a legislative committee of an adjoining State.

Senator Thompson said to-day that he planned introducing a resolution in the Senate putting the Legislature on record, to see whether the Senators and Assemblymen felt like taking the responsibility of ending the investigation before the committee had completed its work.

"I think," commented Chairman Thompson, "the committee has won the confidence of the people and that its motives will not be questioned."

GILLESPIE PERSISTS IN KEEPING BOOKS FROM COMMITTEE

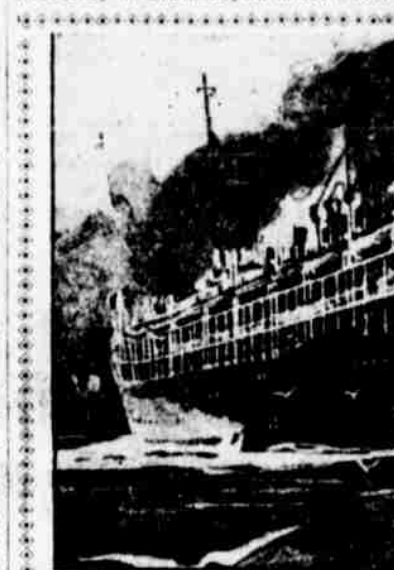
Thomas H. Gillespie, son of the head of the engineering firm of T. A. Gillespie Company, showed his defiance again to-day in respect to the Pittsburg accounts of his firm when he appeared at the Thompson investigation. He had the records with him and before he went in before the sub-

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BRYAN FOR WILSON; WILL NOT OPPOSE HIS RENOMINATION

Likely to Head Nebraska Delegation; Solid for the President at St. Louis.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29.—Former Secretary of State Bryan is for President Wilson's renomination.



He has just come from Miami, Fla., where he paid an extended visit with Bryan. He is one of Bryan's closest personal and political friends and advisers.

In the St. Louis platform he will not attempt to inject planks either on preparedness or the Administration's diplomatic policy which would repudiate President Wilson's position.

These authoritative statements regarding the former Cabinet premier's political plans were made here to-day by Judge W. H. Thompson, Democratic State Chairman of Nebraska. He has just come from Miami, Fla., where he paid an extended visit with Bryan. He is one of Bryan's closest personal and political friends and advisers.

"People misunderstood Mr. Bryan's position regarding his relations with the President," said Chairman Thompson. "They differ only on a few principles resulting from the war. These do not affect their political relations. Mr. Bryan will most likely be one of Nebraska's delegates-at-large to the St. Louis convention. The entire delegation will be for the President's renomination. Whether pledged or unpledged, Mr. Bryan will probably be among the Nebraska delegates who will be for the President to a man. Nebraska is for President Wilson."

Regarding the one term Presidential plank, Chairman Thompson said he believed Bryan would not raise it against the President. Bryan believes the plank should be again enunciated in the St. Louis platform, but made applicable only to a President elected after, not before, laws are enacted putting it into effect.

G. S. VIERECK'S MOTHER SEARCHED BY BRITISH

Was Near Collapse When Stripped at Downs on Her Way to Berlin.

THE HAGUE, Feb. 12 (by mail).—Mrs. Vierreck, mother of the editor of the Fatherland, a New York pro-German publication, was stripped and searched by British authorities at Falmouth and also at Downs when the Dutch liner Nieuw Amsterdam stopped at those ports, according to fellow passengers who arrived here to-day.

Mrs. Vierreck almost collapsed from her humiliating experience. Several other Americans were also reported to have been disturbed for examination.

Converted Cruiser La Provence Sunk in the Mediterranean



CAN'T WARN ARMED LINERS IF THEY WOULD FIRE—BERLIN

Note Says Lusitania Pledge Referred Only to Unarmed Merchantmen.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29.—Following are the exact terms of the German note, submitted yesterday by Ambassador Von Bernstorff, regarding the new U-boat warfare planned to begin to-night:

"The Imperial Government reiterates the pledges given on Sept. 1 and Oct. 15, 1915, and does not consider that these assurances have been modified by subsequent events. The negotiations conducted between the American and German Governments concerning the Lusitania incident never referred to armed merchantmen."

"On the contrary, the note of the American Government of May 13 spoke expressly of 'unarmed merchantmen.' Furthermore, the formula agreed upon by both Governments on Sept. 1 contained the proviso, 'provided that they do not offer resistance.'"

"The presence of armament on

(Continued on Sixth Page.)

SENATE SCHOOL BILL IN MAXWELL'S FAVOR?

Measure Would Create Office of Superintendent Emeritus in This City.

ALBANY, Feb. 29.—Senator Boylan to-day introduced a bill to amend the charter of New York City by authorizing appointment after Oct. 1, 1916, of a city superintendent of schools emeritus, to take effect Jan. 1, 1917.

The duty of such superintendent shall be "to consult and advise with the educational officials whenever, in his judgment, it shall be necessary. It is said the position is to be created for Supt. Maxwell of the New York City schools.

TWENTY BIG SHIPS HUNT OVER MEDITERRANEAN SEA FOR SURVIVORS OF DISASTER

Whether Fast Liner, Which Had Been Turned Into an Auxiliary Cruiser, Was Torpedoed, Hit a Mine or Met With Accident Is Not Revealed.

WAS FILLED WITH TROOPS, PROBABLY FOR BALKANS

PARIS, Feb. 29.—Between 900 and 1,000 persons are believed to have perished in the sinking of the French auxiliary cruiser Provence in the mid-Mediterranean Saturday. Announcement of the disaster was not made until to-day.

Of 1,800 persons aboard the cruiser, the latest statement from the Ministry of Marine declares, about 870 have been saved. Twenty vessels have rushed to the scene in search of more survivors.

Two hundred and ninety-six of the crew have been landed at Malta and about 400 on the Greek island of Melos.

Submarines are known to have been operating in the mid-Mediterranean for some time, the British steamer Fastnet and a Swedish steamer having been torpedoed in those waters within the past few days.

There is nothing in the despatches to indicate whether the Provence was torpedoed by a U-boat, hit a mine or met with an accident.

Recently the British censor has eliminated all references to submarine attacks allowing messages stating that a steamer has been torpedoed to read only "was sunk." The French censor, however, has permitted correspondents to cable the fact that ships have been submarined.

La Provence was in the French Line service between New York and Havre, and until the coming of the Lusitania and Mauretania held several records for speed. After the outbreak of the war La Provence made but one trip to New York and was then taken over by the French Admiralty as an auxiliary cruiser.

As much as the steamer has been under the direct orders of the Government, no news has as yet reached the French Line office in New York as to the disaster.

La Provence entered the Transatlantic service when the speed rivalry among the British, French and German lines was at its height, and engaged in a number of exciting races, in one of which she defeated the Cunarder Mauretania.

La Provence was built at St. Nazaire, France, in 1906. She had a gross tonnage of 14,100 and was 502 feet in length. The steamer was capable of twenty-four to twenty-five knots an hour for several years, but in her latter days she averaged about twenty-one knots. She was built on cruiser lines, like the other steamers of the French Line fleet.

Shipping lists show a second steel steamer Provence, but she is of only 3,241 tons, and it is doubtful whether such a small boat would be crowded with 1,800 persons, even in such an emergency as carrying troops.

In all probability the Provence was carrying troops either from or to Salonica. The islands of Malta and Melos, where survivors were landed, are many miles apart. Melos lies off the southeast coast of Greece. It is probable that the Provence was sunk somewhere between the Greek west coast and the island of Malta.

SMALL FIRE HOLDS UP FIFTH AVENUE RUSH

Blaze at Corner of Forty-second Street Looked Like Conflagration for a While.

Traffic at Forty-second Street and Fifth Avenue was held up early this afternoon because of a smoky fire in the seven-story office building on the southeast corner. The fire started in rubbish in the basement and was not of serious importance, but it generated enough smoke for a conflagration.

The changing fire apparatus and the dense smoke gathered a big crowd, completely blocking the traffic and causing automobiles and wagons to come to a standstill for blocks. The firemen finally chopped a hole in the floor of the Pennsylvania Railroad ticket office and got at the smoke factory beneath.

IN YEAR BRITAIN SPENT 1,509,000,000 POUNDS

National Expenditure for the Last Twelve Months Greatest of All Belligerents.

LONDON, Feb. 29.—Addressing the Chamber of Commerce to-day, Reginald McKenna, Chancellor of the Exchequer, estimated the National expenditures for the current year would reach the gigantic total of 1,509,000,000 pounds sterling.

The Government, he said, was prepared to give assistance for the development of foreign trade in order that rivals who were "Great Britain's bitter enemies" should not, as in the past, enjoy control of the foreign trade.

The Chancellor said Great Britain's personal national expenditures were higher than that of any of the other belligerent powers.